

Richard Duncan  
1000 Ridgeview Drive  
Richmond CA 94803

Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

We are writing to voice our opposition to the US Telecom lobby groups petition to the FCC to eliminate requirements that make the wholesale purchase of certain copper-based network elements available at regulated prices.

We live in the San Francisco Bay Area where you would assume we should have competitive ISPs. In fact, we live just 20 miles outside of San Francisco where access to independent local ISPs is practically non-existent, but for Sonic, our current ISP. Our only other options are the large and expensive carriers, AT&T and Comcast. About a year ago, we decided to switch to TV streaming in order to save on our excessive cable bills, and our cable company, Comcast responded by trying to tie us to the same cost level by capping our internet usage (unless we paid substantially more money every month). Fortunately, we were able to switch our ISP to Sonic which enabled us to retain our TV streaming and cost savings.

Without Sonics ability to purchase network access through AT&T at wholesale prices, any alternative competition to the large and expensive cable companies in our area become moot and we are again subject to high cable bills. Sonic has been developing their own internet network in the San Francisco Bay Area; however, it has not reached our area yet, so we do not have sufficient competition in our region. Our story is similar to those of friends and neighbors and of thousands of other residents in our region which is, that without local independent ISPs like Sonic, we would all be subjected to much higher cable and internet bills and essentially at the mercy of a few large cable companies to select from.

We therefore strongly urge the FCC to deny the US Telecom lobby groups petition and to preserve competition for those individuals/families who otherwise would not have access to lower cost providers.

Sincerely,  
Evelyn Lau and Richard Duncan

Richard Duncan

